

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 544

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sergeant Joshua Bostic for his meritorious service to this country.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Joshua Bostic, of the 101st Airborne unit of the United States Army, is one such individual who, in military service in Afghanistan, resolutely attended to the duties placed before him with an unflagging commitment to duty and honor; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Bostic is a 2002 graduate of Rhea County High School, during which time he served the U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps as a company commander before achieving the highest possible rank of captain; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Bostic received a Silver Star Award and a Purple Heart Award in recognition of his service and sacrifice while serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity in the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force; and

WHEREAS, the original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by General George Washington by order from his headquarters at Newburgh, New York, on August 7, 1782; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2011, Josh Bostic and his unit moved into the hostile Ganjgal Valley in the cold mountains of Afghanistan while on a mission to kill a top-tier Al-Qaeda target deep in enemy territory; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, Sgt. Bostic and his battalion walked unknowingly into a deathtrap, bombarded by an estimated 150 Al-Qaeda soldiers who lay in wait in the trees and highlands; and

WHEREAS, during the heavy firefight, Josh Bostic bravely crawled out into enemy fire to retrieve a fallen comrade and performed cardio pulmonary resuscitation on his wounded friend, despite being wounded in the right leg himself; and

WHEREAS, with no escape route available and no help on the way, Sgt. Bostic, according to Army records, ordered his men to a safer location, a rock building higher up the mountainside, and he and others provided cover fire and aid while his men advanced; and

WHEREAS, after several failed attempts to revive his friend, Josh Bostic reluctantly made the decision to rejoin his battalion higher up the mountain and then continued to give critical communication to command while under intense enemy fire; and

WHEREAS, five and a half hours after the firefight began, air assault weapons provided aid to the soldiers on the ground and, immediately after, Sgt. Bostic volunteered to go with a group to retrieve his fallen friend, despite his own injury; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Bostic has since returned to the United States, and he and his wife, Robin, currently reside in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, this intrepid man served this great nation with courage and gallantry and is especially deserving of both awards for boldly putting his own life at risk to save the life of another, and he deserves proper recognition for his heroism and his commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, Josh Bostic performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sgt. Joshua Bostic for his meritorious service in Afghanistan and express our sincerest gratitude for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.